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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 16th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. CISSÉ	(Senegal)
later:	Mr. SRIVIHOK (Vice-Chairman)	(Thailand)
later:	Mr. CISSÉ (Chairman)	(Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (A/49/89, A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, 345, 369, 422)

1. Mr. GIACOMELLI (United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP)) said that, during the previous year, although the drug problem had continued to extend its reach throughout the world, there had been a profound transformation in international drug-control efforts as a result of two landmarks in that field - General Assembly resolutions 48/12 and 48/112. At the inter-agency level, there were signs of a more cooperative atmosphere. For the first time, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report (A/49/139-E/1994/57), agency-specific implementation plans had been included in the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. Secondly, a shared pragmatism had emerged when the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had agreed that the Action Plan should delineate shared goals of the United Nations system rather than pinpointing each agency's activities. It could then form the basis for individual agencies' work. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had also placed drug control on its agenda, although it remained incumbent on individual United Nations entities to integrate drug-control priorities into their own planning.

2. At the intergovernmental level, it had become widely recognized that the drug problem could not be tackled on a unilateral or even a bilateral basis but, being global in nature, would require extended and improved international cooperation. He emphasized that at the national level, too, coordination was necessary among ministries, so that national and international policies dovetailed, ensuring that the appropriate priority and resources were given to the subject. There was further evidence that resolution 48/12 had been a catalyst for change in that several more States had recently acceded to the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and in that there had been progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session. The main significance of resolution 48/12, however, lay in its recognition that there were strengths and weaknesses in the international drug-control system, and its recommendation to convene an ad hoc expert group to assist in analysing the issues. That expert group had begun work.

3. He said it had become clear to all that drug control had ramifications into diverse fields such as economics, politics and development. As a result, there had been changes in both the analytical and the structural bases for action. The economic dimension of the illicit-drug threat, for example, necessitated a fuller analytical foundation to underpin the measures devised to contain it. Such analysis would use economic principles and concepts not often associated with the drug issue, as UNDCP had already attempted to do in Pakistan. As the approach matured, it would demonstrate increasingly clearly the need to involve international financial institutions, and indeed contacts at various levels had already been established with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. A start had thus been made in establishing the connection between drug control and economic and social development. In structural terms, regional cooperation was gradually

being recognized as a prerequisite for successful drug control. During the previous year, UNDCP had helped to coordinate intergovernmental drug-control initiatives in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America relating to, inter alia, border controls, preventive education and draft programmes on debt-for-drug-control swaps.

4. As UNDCP's coordinating role grew it would become crucial for UNDCP to have access to adequate resources. The fact that it was funded largely by voluntary contributions from a small group of donors made it difficult to predict the exact level of income in the medium term. Currently it seemed that income was declining in relation to requirements, and he appealed to the Committee and all Member States for greater contributions.

5. Mr. HENZE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union and Austria, expressed alarm at the worldwide expansion of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse and of drug-related crime. It was a complex problem with social, economic and cultural elements. Progress was only possible through cooperation, with the United Nations providing the most effective framework for action. The delegations concerned welcomed the involvement of the Economic and Social Council and ACC, and were glad to see that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs was working more effectively.

6. He expressed support for the comprehensive strategies agreed on in the United Nations system and welcomed both the work of UNDCP and efforts to strengthen the relationship between it and the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. However, adequate funding, efficiently managed by UNDCP, was essential for productive results, and he called on Member States to help to make up the projected shortfall.

7. He noted with satisfaction the Economic and Social Council's approval of the recently updated System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as a framework for improving cooperation. Nevertheless, even closer coordination between all parts of the system had to be achieved if the plan was to be effective. To date, only a small number of agencies had submitted agency-specific implementation plans and he called on the remainder to do so as soon as possible. It was important that United Nations development funds and programmes, together with international financial institutions, were brought into play. To that end, government representatives in those bodies should endorse the System-Wide Action Plan and ensure that those agencies included drug aspects in their overall strategies as well as their specific country programmes. He warned, however, that more forceful action against drugs should not entail diversion of resources from other development activities. On the contrary, encouragement of alternative and sustainable development would help to eliminate drug-based economies, and the European Union and Austria hoped that the 1995 World Summit for Social Development would take due account of that relationship.

8. International conventions continued to form the legal backbone of the global fight against drugs, yet many States had not yet become party to them; moreover, some States parties lacked the necessary legislation to fulfil their obligations. Since drug traffickers were quick to exploit legal loopholes,

priority should be given to promoting universal accession to such instruments and assisting States in making the necessary legislative and institutional arrangements for their proper application. UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) could play a vital role in that regard.

9. The European Union endorsed the idea that INCB should devote a chapter in its forthcoming report to reviewing the effectiveness of the international drug-control treaties. It also looked forward to the findings of the intergovernmental advisory group entrusted with monitoring treaty implementation and hoped that it would issue clear recommendations on how to improve implementation. However, legal measures alone would not suffice. The European Union was convinced that special attention should be paid to demand reduction and therefore welcomed the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to take the matter up as a separate item.

10. As to the European Union's own efforts, a comprehensive and integrated action plan to combat drugs for the years 1995-1999 was currently under consideration. It would enable the European Union to take advantage of additional cooperation possibilities provided by the recent entry into force of the Treaty on the European Union. The new plan would focus on demand reduction, combating illicit trafficking and international action. Progress was also being made in setting up the European monitoring centre for drugs and drug addiction, which would collect and disseminate information on the drugs situation throughout the European Union. Furthermore, endeavours were under way to establish EUROPOL, whose essential function would be to facilitate the exchange and analysis of information and intelligence on serious organized transnational crime within the European Union. The EUROPOL drugs unit would play a vital role in international narcotics crime control.

11. In order to combat drugs on a broader front, the European Union was also cooperating with producer and transit countries through appropriate agreements and was currently considering the renewal of special trade preferences granted earlier to four Andean and six Central American countries in support of their fight against drugs. Under its common foreign and security policy, the European Union monitored the worldwide drug situation. The ministers of 22 European countries had recently adopted a declaration on increased cooperation in combating drugs and organized crime in Europe; it called for intensified cooperation and universal accession to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, as well as the utilization of UNDCP coordinating functions for technical assistance and training.

12. Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela), speaking on behalf of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela, welcomed the fact that the Economic and Social Council had reaffirmed the leadership role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) as a coordinator of United Nations drug-control activities and had stressed their importance. General Assembly resolution 48/112 provided a comprehensive framework for international cooperation that would ensure consistency and non-duplication within the United Nations system. The three countries supported the incorporation of drug-control aspects into the activities of United Nations programmes, specialized agencies and regional

commissions, as well as efforts to create a common database on drug-related programmes. Joint evaluation of the impact of illicit drug production, trafficking and consumption would lead to comprehensive and more effective action. It was therefore especially important for the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to examine the documents prepared by UNDCP in preparation for the 1995 World Summit for Social Development.

13. Greater efforts were needed with respect to demand reduction, rehabilitation of drug abusers and prevention of money-laundering. UNDCP should endeavour to improve cooperation with Latin American laboratories with a view to guaranteeing the environmental safety of the chemicals used to eradicate drug crops. The three countries applauded the ongoing efforts of UNDCP in that regard and trusted that, in his report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Executive Director of UNDCP would include information on progress made.

14. Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela participated in the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States, which had elaborated legal instruments to discourage money-laundering and to control drug precursors and essential chemicals, and was currently drafting measures to combat drug trafficking in Latin America. They had supported all the Rio Group's initiatives to fight illicit drug trafficking. In the belief that one of the best ways to strengthen international cooperation on drug control was to institutionalize it, they urged all countries which had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the 1988 Convention.

15. The high-level segment of the 1995 session of the Economic and Social Council would provide a valuable opportunity to evaluate international drug-control efforts and orient future activities. For that reason, the report to be prepared with the assistance of the ad hoc expert group, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/12, was particularly important as a means of identifying measures for strengthening international cooperation on drug control.

16. Mr. Srivihok (Thailand), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

17. Mr. CAMACHO-OMISTE (Bolivia) said that, in order to control drugs, it was necessary for producer and consumer countries to assume their shared responsibilities. His country's strategy for combating drug abuse, illicit production and trafficking was being overhauled to take into account its experience over more than 20 years. While alternative development was in theory a valid approach, the combined efforts of his Government, United Nations specialized agencies and friendly countries had not sufficed to achieve the objectives. Considerable progress had been made in interdicting drug traffic, and the contribution of the illicit drug trade to national income had decreased. However, international demand for narcotic drugs continued to grow, and criminal organizations still controlled their sale in the developed countries.

18. The most serious problem with the alternative development approach was the forced eradication of coca crops, which had succeeded only in alienating the peasant growers. In the opinion of his country, as well as that of the international organizations and other countries with a direct interest in the topic, it was necessary to direct punitive efforts against the drug traffickers,

who were the real culprits, and not against the growers. Experience had shown that drug crops could be reduced by sustainable, integrated development with assistance from international organizations, including financial institutions, and developed countries. International cooperation agreements should be designed to meet the requirements of each country, to respect its sovereignty and interests and to contribute to strengthening its domestic consensus. Furthermore, sustainable, integrated alternative development must be supplemented by light manufacturing of goods for which there was a stable market.

19. His Government's new drug-control programme allocated resources for the monitoring of suppliers of precursor chemicals, who had become much more active in recent years. He urged countries to sign bilateral agreements that would allow rapid action in the event of operations to divert such substances for illicit drug production. Prevention efforts in his country were based on providing education and on encouraging and assisting community participation in combating drugs. Better control would be exercised over property seized from drug traffickers by inventorying it on site, and regulations had been drafted that would enable the use of such property for prevention, health care, education, prison improvement, and interdiction activities.

20. With respect to the Secretary-General's report on the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (A/49/139), his delegation attached considerable importance to the idea of instituting master plans, which it considered essential both for national policy planning and for coordinating efforts at the subregional, regional and institutional levels.

21. Mr. KÄÄRIÄ (Finland), speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland), said that lasting drug control could be achieved only through sustainable development, health and education for all, democracy, good governance and the rule of law the world over. Solving the drug problem would require effective cooperation at the subregional, regional and global levels in addition to national measures. Drug-control efforts within the United Nations system should not be confined to UNDCP, WHO and a few other actors. It was necessary to strengthen consultation and coordination between UNDCP and its main partners, including the international financial institutions.

22. The Nordic countries welcomed the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to request the Executive Director of UNDCP to analyse further ways and means of strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination. They hoped that the report resulting from the consultants' study currently under way would lead to a significant increase in the involvement of the United Nations system, the World Bank and the regional development banks. They considered that there was considerable potential for incorporating the drug aspect into many development activities, especially in the case of UNDP, UNICEF and the development banks.

23. Given its limited resources, UNDCP itself could act only as a catalyst for programmes and projects carried out by United Nations bodies and international financial institutions. At the field office level, the resident coordinators must do their part to bring about system-wide coordination of United Nations

drug-control activities and consistency between international and national efforts. It was also necessary to ensure that country strategy notes were consistent with UNDCP master plans.

24. UNDCP needed to be able to count on a predictable flow of resources in order to increase its efficiency and impact. Although assessed contributions, which were preferable for reasons of fairness and predictability, might not be achievable for UNDCP in the short term, multiple-year pledges would be a significant step in the right direction. The Nordic countries reiterated their commitment to UNDCP and encouraged it to seek new, complementary means of increasing and broadening its funding base.

25. The Nordic countries would continue to support the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) in its efforts to assist Governments and international organizations to improve their drug-control programmes. They urged all Member States which had not yet done so to become party to and comply fully with the three international drug-control conventions. They reiterated their conviction that a strategy of liberalization or legalization of narcotic drugs would lead only to increased drug abuse. The three conventions, the Global Programme of Action and the System-Wide Action Plan were essential tools for UNDCP and constituted a framework for national anti-narcotic legislation and activities. They appreciated the efforts of UNDCP to develop model legislation, to promote more uniform implementation of the conventions and to facilitate international cooperation. They welcomed the Economic and Social Council's endorsement of the recommendations of the conference organized by INCB and the Council of Europe with respect to improving control of the licit international trade in psychotropic substances. In that connection, they urged all countries to adopt the legislation required under the 1971 Convention.

26. Mr. STAPLES (Australia), speaking on behalf of the members of the South Pacific Forum that were also Members of the United Nations, said that illicit drugs and drug trafficking were of immense concern to those countries. Although largely spared the more devastating effects of such activities, Pacific island countries were not immune to the threat of drugs; hence their participation in international initiatives on drug issues. Illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse in Pacific island countries had not received the necessary attention from bilateral, regional and multilateral drug-control bodies. The region was therefore vulnerable to future exploitation, as recognized by the conference on drug abuse in Asia and the Pacific, held in 1994 in Sydney. It had highlighted the need to devise, in cooperation with UNDCP, a subregional strategy for the smaller Pacific island countries to give greater significance to the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000). The UNDCP mission to the Pacific region in 1992 had been the first step by the international community to redress the situation, but unfortunately it was not clear whether there would be any follow-up. It was also regrettable that UNDCP had been unable to attend the South Pacific Forum Regional Security Committee meeting held in Brisbane earlier in 1994.

27. There was still an opportunity for preventive action against illicit drugs in the Pacific island countries, in contrast to the remedial action required in many other regions. Drug abuse and related activities, such as money-

laundering, posed a threat to the political, economic and social stability of small nations. They were also liable to suffer from widespread local drug abuse as a consequence of the availability of drugs in transit. The South Pacific Forum countries were determined not to become centres for drug trafficking money-laundering. Such issues would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting in New Zealand of the heads of law-enforcement agencies in Asia and the Pacific.

28. Although there was some crop cultivation (cannabis) in the region, the main potential of the region was as a large-scale money-laundering base. The primary responsibility for preventive action lay at the national level, but every means for action available in the United Nations should be looked into. That required a strengthened commitment towards regional and international cooperation on drug-control activities and improved technical assistance from the regional and multilateral organizations concerned, particularly UNDCP, as well as better dialogue between countries in the region and with other United Nations agencies.

29. The Pacific island countries recognized the importance of the 1988 Convention and encouraged all States which had not yet done so to become parties and to introduce legislation to give effect to its provisions. To facilitate work in the criminal justice sphere, assistance should also be provided to countries in elaborating legislation that would ensure fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention. In conclusion, the Pacific island countries pledged their continued commitment to cooperate fully with the international community in order to combat the drug problem.

30. Mr. GELBARD (United States of America) said that his Government recognized its obligation to tackle the country's serious drug-abuse problem. The United States drug-control strategy addressed drug consumption and focused on treatment and rehabilitation, especially for hard-core addicts. Although controlling demand was imperative, it was also essential to control the cultivation of drug crops and narcotics production. Interdiction efforts in the source countries must be combined with development assistance to support economic alternatives to drug-dependent economies. Greater international cooperation was required to deal with international cocaine traffickers, who were expanding their operations to regions where political control was weak. Although important progress had been made in combating the cocaine trade, it continued to be enormously profitable. Cocaine use was expanding in many parts of the world and hard-core use in the United States had not declined.

31. His Government's strategy against cocaine trafficking focused on attacking the trade in source countries, targeting the main drug traffickers and their organizations, strengthening national anti-narcotics institutions and seeking greater international cooperation in those areas. His delegation was concerned about lagging international attention concerning the unique challenges of the heroin problem owing to the size and geographic scope of production, the problem of access to opium and heroin production in remote parts of the world, and the rapidly escalating demand for heroin. The increasingly complex drug-trafficking networks stretched across virtually every continent.

32. The size and complexity of the international heroin trade might overwhelm international narcotics-control efforts if they were not carefully coordinated.

The United States was committed to making maximum use of multilateral organizations, particularly the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), to combat the heroin trade. The United Nations had a role both in focusing increased attention on the problem and in coordinating efforts to reduce heroin production and distribution. Multilateral groups had an important function in developing guidelines to control the trade in chemicals used to refine heroin and other drugs and should also be focal points for international coordination to combat money-laundering.

33. His country's bilateral programmes were designed to strengthen anti-drug institutions in key source and transit countries that demonstrated a commitment to narcotics control. If his Government determined that a major drug-producing or drug-transit country had not fully cooperated to control narcotics trafficking, it would cut off non-humanitarian assistance to that country and vote against requests by it for loans from multilateral development banks. Crop control remained a critical element in any effective strategy and required a strong commitment by producer countries in the Western hemisphere and Thailand. It was encouraging that the Central Asian States were beginning to respond to the escalating narcotics trafficking problems in the region. He hoped that the response would be strong in order to protect that region from further exploitation by criminal syndicates seeking new routes and markets. The United States was supporting South Africa's efforts to cope with the attempts by drug traffickers to expand their markets and transshipment operations in that country.

34. In view of the fiscal constraints facing all countries, it was imperative to coordinate efforts and mobilize resources at both international and national levels. Over the past year, his Government had supported intensified efforts to involve the entire United Nations system in drug-control issues, particularly the development agencies, through the System-Wide Action Plan. As narcotics production shifted to some of the poorest and remotest areas of the world, the attendant problems of drug abuse, crime and violence also spread. The social consequences of drug trafficking and abuse undermined the development programmes promoted and funded by international institutions.

35. His Government had begun to engage multilateral development banks in serious anti-narcotics initiatives. Those organizations could play a valuable role in supporting sustainable development programmes offering income and employment alternatives to narcotics production. Such initiatives, however, must be accompanied by credible law-enforcement measures. The World Bank and other lending institutions showed an encouraging willingness to support drug control. Member States must support those programmes and request such assistance bilaterally and through the governing bodies; and the key opium- and coca-producing countries should submit proposals for using that assistance. He urged Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to UNDCP in view of its projected deficit in 1995.

36. Mr. Cissé (Senegal) took the Chair.

37. Mr. ROSENBERG (Ecuador) said that drug abuse, particularly among young people, resulted from despair and a lack of opportunities, on the one hand, and

hedonism and exaggerated consumption on the other. In addition, modern society was witnessing the erosion of the traditional family structure. In all too many cases, the mass media, motivated by a thirst for profit and lacking responsibility, had idealized drug abuse and encouraged a cult of violence and disorder. His delegation considered it necessary to promote global preventive education in order to instil in young people concepts that would enable them to develop constructive and independent attitudes with regard to drugs and alcohol. In that connection, Ecuador was encouraged by the efforts of UNESCO to prevent and reduce demand through the implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan.

38. Because of its geographical location, Ecuador had become a transit country for drugs shipped to Europe and North America and had also fallen prey to drug-related money-laundering. His country had for long imposed strict financial control over suspected money-laundering activities. The international community should support the transit countries, particularly the developing countries among them, in the war on drugs.

39. Reducing and eradicating poverty to combat drug trafficking was a joint task that required greater technical and financial contributions in order to set up alternative development programmes providing profitable economic activities to improve the prospects of broad sectors of the population. Efforts to combat drug trafficking and related activities must be a shared responsibility. Ecuador maintained its unwavering commitment to the joint development and use of mechanisms to combat illicit drug trafficking and had ratified numerous regional and international legal instruments relating to drugs. Since 1993, it had been implementing a five-year plan to control and prevent drug abuse and hoped to see increased international cooperation in that struggle.

40. Mr. SOEGARDA (Indonesia) said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) had continued to make progress over the past year in designing a more comprehensive and integrated approach to combating the drug problem. Timely and accurate information was essential in order to ensure a coherent and pragmatic strategy, taking account of the changing scope of the overall problem, assessing the needs of regions and countries and making the necessary resources available. Regional agencies and Member States must share information to establish clear policy guidelines at the regional and subregional levels. In that regard, the ASEAN senior drug officials continued to increase cooperation and required support by the Programme in implementing their three-year plan for preventive education.

41. His delegation encouraged the relevant United Nations agencies to contribute to the System-Wide Action Plan, which would be greatly enhanced by agreement on shared goals leading to concrete operational activities at the field level. Participation by UNDCP in the ACC mechanisms and its work in the Joint Coordination Group on Policy (JCGP) should help integrate drug-control policy into the various programmes of the system and improve coordination at various levels.

42. Support by UNDCP in strengthening country-level efforts was an important aspect of integrated drug-control planning. That programme-oriented approach by the United Nations should be enhanced since it contributed to a more effective,

coordinated response by the Organization to areas identified by Member States. Indonesia welcomed UNDCP's assistance in formulating master plans and developing country-specific strategies. Such assistance was central to the efforts of developing countries to implement anti-drug activities on the scale required. Furthermore, the new form of financing drug-control projects, the debt-for-alternative-development swap, was potentially useful for addressing the drug problem and further integrating drug-control activities into development.

43. He expressed satisfaction at the cooperation being established between UNDCP and other United Nations agencies, including international financial institutions, in view of the need to address critical problems such as money-laundering. Likewise, the Global Programme of Action would prove extremely useful to law-enforcement agencies in the developing countries. Other conferences that would strengthen cooperation included the recent International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime and the forthcoming World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime.

44. He looked forward to closer interaction between UNDCP and other United Nations drug-control bodies, in line with recommendations by the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Such cooperation should promote implementation of the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. While cooperation with other organizations should alleviate somewhat the burden placed on UNDCP, adequate resources must be made available to it. His delegation supported all efforts, including establishment of the ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group and the working group on maritime cooperation, to improve international cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking and distribution. As a large archipelagic maritime State, Indonesia was particularly concerned about trafficking by sea. It therefore welcomed the findings of the first meeting of the working group on maritime cooperation, which emphasized, inter alia, the importance of speedy information exchange, technical assistance and guidelines for boarding vessels suspected of drug trafficking.

45. In conclusion he said that, thanks to the efforts under way in the United Nations to combat illicit trafficking and drug abuse as well as the restructuring of the drug-control bodies, a truly global response was taking shape. It would be recognized as one of the major achievements in the first 50 years of United Nations activities, to which Indonesia would continue to lend its support.

46. Mr. SCHALLENBERG (Austria) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Germany on behalf of the European Union and shared the concerns expressed about worldwide developments in drug abuse. As host country of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), Austria was following its evolution with interest and had substantially increased its financial contribution in 1994.

47. His country welcomed the unprecedented and concerted effort by the United Nations to tackle the problems of drug abuse and illicit trafficking as well as the decision to bring together the three drug-control bodies in a new programme. UNDCP was now the undisputed leader and had made considerable progress in policy

formulation, data collection and identification of trends. None the less, further efforts should be made to clarify the Programme's future role. The decisions of the high-level plenary meetings of the forty-eighth General Assembly and their follow-up by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had contributed significantly to the process.

48. He also welcomed the conclusions of the recent Economic and Social Council coordination segment and looked forward to further discussions on the subject during the forthcoming meeting of ACC to be held in Vienna. As the first high-level meeting on drug control involving the whole United Nations system, he hoped that it would, on the one hand, strengthen the role of UNDCP as lead agency and coordinator of all United Nations drug-control activities and, on the other, expand cooperation with other United Nations bodies as well as the Bretton Woods institutions. Multilateral cooperation should also be stepped up, in particular with regional organizations such as the European Union and the Council of Europe. They should, however, avoid duplication and should act within the framework of the Global Programme of Action.

49. Austria was concerned about increased production and new drug routes in and from Central Asia, problems which directly affected Europe and must therefore be tackled jointly. Further efforts were required to ensure containment of demand, and Austria strongly supported the balanced approach referred to by the Executive Director of UNDCP. In that connection, he expressed appreciation of the documents prepared for submission to the World Summit for Social Development.

50. He endorsed the idea of a periodic "world drug report", which would promote awareness of the aims of UNDCP and might also help to raise funds for its activities. It was essential that there should be no overlapping with the annual report of the International Narcotics Control Board; the "world drug report" should complement the latter by providing a broader overview. Austria shared the Executive Director's concern regarding the financial situation of the Programme, for if the current trend continued, drastic cuts in UNDCP activities would be required. More Member States must contribute to the Programme, while at the same time UNDCP should plan carefully in order to maintain sound finances. In conclusion, he expressed his gratitude to the Executive Director of UNDCP for his wise and farsighted leadership of the Programme as well as his introduction to the present agenda item.

51. Ms. SHARFMAN (Israel) said that, like other countries, Israel strove to cope with the vast demands of combating the drugs problem with a limited budget. The Anti-Drug Authority (ADA), Israel's national body responsible for such matters, formulated nation-wide policies on all aspects of drugs control as well as coordinating the efforts of all the relevant agencies in the country.

52. Israel was ready to cooperate with countries in its region and elsewhere in drug-control efforts. Such cooperation was vital, given the proximity of Israel and its neighbouring countries to major drug-production centres and smuggling routes, making them a target for drug transiting and local consumption. As the prospect of peace in the Middle East grew, new opportunities were being created for regional cooperation on such matters: discussions had been held with Jordan

and the Palestinians in the framework of the Middle East peace talks; in the peace treaty they had signed recently, Israel and Jordan had agreed to cooperate on various aspects of the war on drugs. Israel urged neighbouring countries to establish a regional committee for all countries in the Middle East in order to pool resources, efforts and expertise to combat drug abuse and its consequences.

53. Israel was taking steps to reduce both the supply and the demand of drugs; while enforcement alone could not provide the ultimate solution, efforts to eliminate the supply through law enforcement and prohibition played a key role in Israel's short- and medium-term activities. As of 1995 a special department to be set up in the Customs Authority would be responsible for the prohibition of drugs smuggled into the country and would collect and analyse information in cooperation with the Israel police and with international customs agencies.

54. Over the last year, progress had been made on long-term measures such as treatment, rehabilitation and education designed to stem the demand. Unlicensed institutions treating victims of drug abuse would no longer be allowed to function. Special emphasis was being placed on the treatment of teenagers, and surveys showed a dramatic decrease over the past two years in the number of school-age drug users, following prevention programmes in schools. Two out-patient clinics had been opened and plans for two more were under way; a residential education and treatment centre for long-term care and rehabilitation would also be established.

55. Public information, education and prevention activities had been pursued. ADA had continued its practice of broadcasting anti-drug messages and had sponsored two information campaigns directed at teenagers and lasting several weeks.

56. Israel had taken steps to implement the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1972 Protocol amending it and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. It also attached great importance to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Israel looked forward to continued close cooperation with the United Nations drug-control bodies. More bilateral agreements with a view to furthering international cooperation in drug control would also be welcome. Israel shared the vision of the Secretary-General outlined in his report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (A/49/345) and looked forward to a time when all countries in the Middle East would work together, in peace, to combat the scourge of illegal drugs that was threatening the well-being of the region.

The meeting rose at 12.45 p.m.